

House Built of Plastics

Homes of the not too far distant future are destined for some revolutionary and logical changes, according to predictions made by Alden B. Dow, Michigan architect, who has already gained nationwide recognition for his modern functionally designed homes. Dow envisions houses constructed almost entirely of plastic materials as a development in the near future. There will be no cracked walls in the homes constructed of these materials because surfaces will be broken up into small units and sealed together with an elastic material, thereby allowing the natural movement of the building frame.

These small units will be of geometric form, combinations of which will form the design of the building—that is, dimensions will be in terms of units rather than feet and inches. Doors will be so many units in high and wide, windows will be merely transparent units, while ventilators, radiators, light fixtures, radios and other accessories will be available in sizes interchangeable with these units. It will be easy to add to these new buildings because one system of construction will apply throughout. An addition will merely require so many standard unit frames and the necessary units to cover it and line it.

Other advantages claimed for the new materials include their good insulation against heat and electricity. Houses built of them, it is said, will be cooler in summer and warmer in winter. In addition they will constitute an extremely low fire hazard, and be resistant to most acids. Plastic blocks need no seasoning. They are completely waterproof, cannot warp or lose their shape. They will not, like wood, be attacked by insects, nor like most other materials, be subject to decay and disintegration. "In building with them, wastage—hereafter a big cost factor—will be eliminated," states Mr. Dow.

These and many other advantages of using plastics for building purposes have been indicated for some time but the difficulties of molding large pieces suitable for use in this field have, until recently, hindered extensive application in this direction.

General Assembly granted conditional funds for Seylor's Creek park. Appomattox is a growing town.

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Stories of Horatio Alger

Are Popular at Harvard
Harvard men seem to be the only ones around Boston who still read the stories of Horatio Alger Jr. The new books, about whom Alger used to write, are little interest. At the Burroughs Newsboys' foundation in Boston the members prefer Tarzan.

Alger, who died in 1929 at Natick, Mass., at the age of 67 years, was graduated from Harvard in 1892. The Harvard library has about 25 titles, many the gift of the author, writes Mary Elizabeth Prim in the Boston Transcript. They circulate, too, and are slowly gaining in popularity. Records show that the books seldom went out in the 1920s, but have been in demand during the last few years.

The librarians can't figure whether this is due to loyalty to a fellow alumnus or a belated interest in the methods of the newsboys and others in the street trades about whom Alger wrote with such gusto. All Alger's fans had one thing in common. They made a lot of money and made it quickly. The Alger heroes were honest and eager, but they certainly got the breaks. There was invariably a rich, kindly old gentleman to make them partners.

There are a number of Alger's books in the Boston Public library, including his Harvard class ode, but none of them circulates. Several are in the rare books collection. The public library in Chelsea, where Alger was born, has not a single title of his on the shelves.

Unique London Museum

Aids Study of History

Getting acquainted with the homes and people of bygone days is an easy and pleasant business for school children, but the existence of a real and visit the Geffrye museum in Shore-ditch, one of the poorer districts of London. Period furniture and cardboard figures, models, lantern slides and films help to make the history lessons vital and interesting.

The first step is easy and one is quickly back in an earlier Shore-ditch, which had open fields instead of terraced houses and automobiles for the museum is housed in a group of eighteenth century almshouses. The front door is reached through a garden shaded with old trees and the almshouses themselves embody the special dignity and charm which belonged to the domestic architecture of the period.

Inside the museum, time is even more elastic; rooms are furnished and peopled to illustrate domestic life not only of the eighteenth century but of 1800 and up to the Victorian era.

Baschell practice started at Appomattox high school.

Sweden asks more than token aid for Finland in exchange for permission to cross Swedish frontier.

British intercept German boat near Puerto Rico.

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'Horse of Troy' Tradition

Gets Scientific Approval

Quite often scientists prove some honored ancient tradition to be wrong, but there are times when they prove an honored ancient tradition to be right. For many a century, until science came along with its trained archaeologists to prove that there really was something to the old tradition of Troy and Helen of Troy and the Trojan horse, scholars regarded it as an entertaining story, but no more. They even debated the question whether there ever was a Troy and they sometimes proved that there wasn't.

For the last seven years American archaeologists have been doing a really complete job of excavation at the site of Troy and they have clearly established that the ancient city which stood for so long as a guardian of the Dardanelles existed through more than 40 datable periods. Nine communities were represented by the city mound, meaning that, time after time, the community at Troy was wiped out and later leveled off and rebuilt anew on top of the remains of the former cities. They had nine lines, in fact, of the city wall, and in fact, the city was built on a hill.

First to be unearthed was a spacious hall with 10 columns, dating from 1900 to 1400 B. C. Evidence of destruction of the city by fire was found at several depths. In the form of a layer of ash and charred materials. Shattered stones at one level indicated earthquake destruction. Finally, the earliest occupation level of all was revealed, with a fortification wall and gates flanked by projecting towers. Troy before the beginning of the age of metals.

Science thus has given ample evidence for the existence of a real and actual Troy, so that lovers of the "Ode" and the "Iliad" rejoice.

Napoleon's Sword

Bearing the Inscription, "N. Bonaparte, First Consul of the French Republic"

It is a sword which was dedicated to an exhibition in Moscow dedicated to the victory of the Russian people over Napoleon in 1812. When Napoleon was defeated and sent to the island of St. Helena, the sword was taken to the island and placed in the hands of the British.

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